

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: Shyrock LLC
P O Box 36
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-0036
2. Type of action: Application for Beneficial Use Permit No. 76M-30148135
3. Water source name: Groundwater Well
4. Location affected by project: SW ¼ and SWSE ¼ of Section 12, T16N, R26W, Mineral County
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:

The Applicant requests a point of diversion (groundwater well) with a proposed flow rate of 105 GPM and a volume of 41 AF per annum for multiple domestic use consisting of 300 lots in a private community of motor coaches and/or travel trailers, club house and lawn and garden irrigation of 2 acres. The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.
6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

Montana Natural Heritage Program	Species of Concern
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks	2006 Montana dewatered streams
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	303(d) list of impaired streams

Part II. Environmental Review**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: No significant impact - see groundwater section below

Water quality - *Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.*

Determination: The source is groundwater, see below

Groundwater - *Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.*

The proposed well is located approximately 1,400 feet from the Clark Fork River which is interpreted to be the potentially affected surface water for the subject application. The total year-round depletion is calculated to be 7.2 AF.

Determination: No significant impact

DIVERSION WORKS - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

The well is existing; therefore, the proposed use of groundwater will not impact any channels, cause adverse effect due to flow modifications, create any barriers or impact riparian areas, dams, or other existing or future wells.

Determination: No impact

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern,” or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or “species of special concern.”*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) was contacted to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern”, that could be impacted by the proposed project. The MNHP identified the following species of concern and listed no “species of special concern”:

Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Wolverine, Hoary Bat, Long-eared Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Fisher, Grizzly Bear, Pileated Woodpecker, Harlequin Duck, Flammulated Owl, Western Skink, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, Lyre Mantleslug,

Determination: No significant impacts

Wetlands - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

Determination: No significant impacts
There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the proposed project

Ponds - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

Determination: No significant impacts
There are no ponds associated with the proposed project

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

The area of the proposed water use has previously been disturbed. The RV park will be developed in phases, no additional degradation of soil quality, soil stability, or moisture content is expected. Soils at the place of use are listed as gravelly loam, urban land, unlikely to be susceptible to saline seep.

Determination: No significant impacts

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

Determination: : No significant impact
Existing vegetative cover will remain in place, some new lawn and garden area will be developed. RV sites will be developed in phases, it will be the owner's responsibility to control noxious weeds.

AIR QUALITY - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

Deterioration of air quality and/or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants is not expected. The pump used to extract water from the groundwater aquifer will create a minimal impact to air quality standards.

Determination: No significant impact

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands. If it is not on State or Federal Lands simply state NA-project not located on State or Federal Lands.*

Determination: NA – project not located on State or Federal Lands

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

Determination: No significant impact

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: No significant impact

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: No significant impact

HUMAN HEALTH - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: No significant impact

PRIVATE PROPERTY - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes___ No_**x**___ If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination: No significant impact

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? None
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? None
- (c) Existing land uses? None
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? None
- (f) Demands for government services? None

(g) Industrial and commercial activity? None

(h) Utilities? None

(i) Transportation? None

(j) Safety? None

(k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:

Secondary Impacts None identified in this EA

Cumulative Impacts None identified in this EA

3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:

None identified in this EA

4. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider: No alternative identified

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative

2. Comments and Responses

3. Finding:

Yes___ No x___ Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action because no significant impacts have been identified as a result of the proposed action.

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Kathy Schubert

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: November 5, 2021